For Immediate Release:
February 28, 2012

Contacts:
Rep. Jon Richards, (608) 266-0650
Sen. Jon Erpenbach, (608) 266-6670

Richards, Erpenbach unveil BadgerCare Protection Act
Bill stops Walker administration from dropping health care for tens of thousands of families, restores tax fairness

Madison—Rep. Jon Richards (D-Milwaukee) and Sen. Jon Erpenbach (D-Middleton) unveiled a bill today to stop the Walker administration from implementing changes to BadgerCare that would result in tens of thousands of Wisconsinites losing state health care coverage. They were joined by several Wisconsin families who depend on BadgerCare for their health care.

"Gov. Walker's priorities are completely backwards," said Richards. "He is trying to drop health care for tens of thousands of Wisconsin families after opening a tax loophole for large corporations in his budget that costs taxpayers $40 million per year, without any requirement that they create a single job. Our bill reverses Walker's bad choices."

"During these difficult economic times protecting affordable health care must remain a top priority," said Erpenbach. "The BadgerCare Protection Act stops the Walker administration from trying to close the governor's budget deficit by dropping health care for Wisconsin families."

The BadgerCare Protection Act:

- Prohibits the Department of Health Services (DHS) from implementing higher cost sharing requirements and other changes to BadgerCare that will result in tens of thousands of Wisconsin families losing coverage;
- Prohibits DHS from eliminating BadgerCare eligibility for the 53,000 non-disabled, non-pregnant adults who have family incomes between 133% and 200% of the Federal Poverty Level;
- Protects BadgerCare by repealing a new corporate tax loophole in Gov. Walker's budget that costs state taxpayers about $40 million annually.

Over 20 organizations support the BadgerCare Protection Act, including: Citizen Action of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health, SEIU Healthcare Wisconsin and others.

###